



CALPEEK

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CMA AND HEALTH ACCESS TRYING TO HAMMER OUT LANGUAGE ON MAJOR CALIF. HEALTH INITIATIVE.

The CA Medical Assn.(CMA) and its allies are in the midst of intense negotiations with the powerful Health Access coalition, in hopes that the two side will be able to write a REVISED draft of a proposed initiative to provide low-cost HEALTH INSURANCE for 5-6 million CA workers and their families who are NOT COVERED by health/medical insurance. These uninsured workers are costing the health care industry millions annually in unpaid bills...

...Originally, the drafting of language was to have been completed by Sept. 23 and then submitted to the AG's office for title and summary. While there is still enough time to draft and submit an initiative for November of 1992, the longer the delay, the more expensive it gets to collect signatures...

...Is the delay worth it? YES. If CMA and HA, the medical association's top critic on the hot topic of COST CONTAINMENT, can fashion a compromise, then some sources think such a measure could pass. Health Access is a statewide group of 170 different organizations. Members include the SEIU, CWA, AFSCME, CA Nurses Assn., Congress of CA Seniors, Consumers Union and the NAACP, to name a few. It was formed in 1987 during the hospital/patient dumping wars. Total membership is probably 5-7 million. HA's two key issues are access to quality health care and cost containment. So yes, they would be a KEY ally for CMA. Without HA, CMA's initiative could be in trouble...

...The big question in these discussions is whether CMA is willing to compromise on some of its long-held positions. CALPEEK sources think there will be an announcement of some kind in 2-3 weeks...

...FYI: Latest anti-CMA groups to join the

opposition to fight this plan includes the Merchants & Manufacturers Assn. and the Valley Industry & Commerce Assn.(VICA), both based in the L.A. area. Stay tuned...

ECONOMIC RECESSION HITTING CA VERY HARD.

As if Gov. Pete Wilson didn't have enough problems already, the latest one concerning Calif.'s GLOOMY economic picture could be even more serious than the \$14.3 billion budget deficit fiasco he faced when he became governor last January 20th. And if it is true that voters tend to vote their pocketbooks, then the continued economic downturn could have a major impact on the upcoming 1992 elections...

...According to CA Treas. Kathleen Brown, the State is in a "deeper recession than previously thought." State Controller Gray Davis agrees. There has been a loss of some 240,000 Calif. jobs during this recession and 3 critical industries are in big trouble: RETAILING, REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION. And with pending defense & military base cutbacks, Calif.'s aero-space/defense industry ISN'T in good shape either...

...Several CALPEEK sources have said repeatedly that come January 1992, Gov. Wilson and the Legislature could be faced with another huge deficit. This fear was echoed Oct. 8th in Sacto when Assemblyman Tom McClintock(R-Camarillo) released a copy of a letter he sent to Gov. Wilson requesting a special legislative session to deal with the impending deficit. McClintock claims CA now has a \$1 billion deficit — which is growing at \$11 million per day. McClintock may be correct that the current budget is in a deficit mode, but the size of the deficit is UNKNOWN at this point...

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...This puzzle may be answered in about 10 days or so when the next quarterly report is issued by the Commission on State Finances. Several CALPEEK sources believe this report will NOT be good news for the Wilson Administration. In fact, some think it will confirm the WORST CASE scenario outlined by McClintock, who said that if nothing is done until January, the 1992 budget deficit could be as bad or worse than this past year...

...What does McClintock propose? Eliminate the increased 1.25 cent SALES TAX hike to stimulate CA's economy and enact some of the budget reform ideas which were REJECTED last July. McClintock may have company on the issue of the sales tax. Demo Assemblyman Steve Peace of Chula Vista wants the governor and the legislature to suspend the 1.25 cent increase over the holiday season to help the State's economy...

...FYI: To make matters even worse for Gov. Pete, this past week the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to decide whether CA's Prop. 13 is constitutional. Worst case finding by the high court could result in an \$11 billion property tax hike for homeowners, thus touching off another MASSIVE taxpayer revolt. Stay tuned...

AB 101 UPDATE: WHAT NEXT FOR GAY POLITICS?
Editor's note: When Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed AB 101, the so-called GAY Bill of Rights aimed at banning job discrimination, Calif. gays took to the street in protest. Here is CALPEEK's update...

...Despite the fact that polling data shows a majority of CA voters FAVORED the signing of AB 101 into law by Gov. Wilson, CALPEEK sources nevertheless have a gut feeling that ongoing gay protests and rallies may NOW be causing a voter BACKLASH, especially after seeing TV reports from San Francisco, where the protests got out of control. The protests in West Hollywood were noisy, but non-violent (for the most part)...

...The big question for GAY Demo and GOP political activists is WHAT NEXT? Many favor placing AB 101 on the ballot as a November initiative. That's a costly plan

and again, despite the polling, insiders have a gut feeling such a measure could be defeated, especially if the religious right is able to turn the measure into a referendum on the gay lifestyle...

...Another plan which has been described to CALPEEK involves massive numbers of gay GOP voters supporting their archenemy, U.S. Rep. Bill Dannemeyer, over appointed U.S. Sen. John Seymour in the June 1992 U.S. Senate primary. After saying for months that he made a mistake when he voted against AB 1 in 1984 -- and hinting that he supported AB 101, Seymour came out against AB 101 a day before Wilson announced his veto. If 300,000 gay Republicans were to swing the election to Dannemeyer, Seymour would be finished and Wilson, as the one who appointed Seymour, would be damaged goods...

...FYI: By the time CALPEEK hits Sacto, a huge rally at the Capitol set for Oct. 11th will be history. The gay protest coincides with Nat'l Coming Out Day - a day in which "closet gays" openly declare their sexual preference. Whether rally organizers plan to OUT closet gays who work for Gov. Wilson is not known, but the threat has been made. More next week. Stay tuned...

CDP CHAIR ANGELIDES AT L.A. PAO LUNCHEON.

CA Demo Party Chair Phil Angelides will address members of the L.A. Public Affairs Officers Assn. at their Oct. 29 luncheon at the Mayfair Hotel, L.A. Reception 11:30 a.m., lunch 12 noon. For info and RSVPs, call Yolanda Ochoa at (818)302-1990...

WILL LUCY KILLEA HAVE A DEMO RIVAL IN 1992?

Now that State Sen. Lucy Killea (San Diego) is officially registered as an INDEPENDENT, will she have to face a Democratic rival in the November 1992 election? Sources tell CALPEEK there is a GOOD chance Lucy will have to face not only a solid GOPER, such as former State Sen. Jim Ellis, but also a Democrat. FYI: Killea re-registered as an independent this past week. Normally she couldn't do this, but her buddy, Gov. Pete Wilson, signed a special bill allowing her to re-register AFTER the deadline. Candidates have to be registered ONE year before the election and the June deadline was long past when Killea announced her plans to become an independent. More next week...

1992 U.S. SENATE RACES: NEW POLLING DATA.

Editor's note: The Calif. Poll's new data for October 1992 is out and there are some changes worth noting. Sample size on Demos was 457 and GOP sample size was 402. Data was collected between Sept. 19-25. 115 independents also were polled...

THE 2-YR. SEAT

...Demos first. Former S.F. Mayor Dianne Feinstein continues to lead Demo Controller Gray Davis, but her 61% to 32% June lead has DROPPED to a 53% to 34% margin. Undecided jumped from 7% in June to 13% in September. DiFi's campaign is still very low keyed, while Davis is beginning to make some headlines over the budget crisis and pay for public employees...

...Among the GOP contenders, UNDECIDED is still the leader with 48%, a slight drop from June when undecided accounted for 51%. But among the candidates, appointed U.S. Sen. John Seymour holds a 29% to 16% lead over chief rival, U.S. Rep. Bill Dannemeyer of Orange Co. College prof. Bill Allen has 7% in this poll. Without Allen, Seymour still holds a 13-pt. lead over Dannemeyer, 32% to 19% --- so it's not like Allen, with his ultra conservative message, is hurting just Dannemeyer...

...When Demos and GOPers are thrown against each other, both DiFi and Davis defeat ALL of these Republican opponents, but the margins are down slightly from June. At this point, Seymour's best hope is a race against Feinstein. She holds a 44% to 38% lead, with 18% undecided. Davis holds a 46% to 30% lead over Seymour, with 24% undecided...

THE CRANSTON, 6-YR. SEAT

...GOP first. Palm Springs Mayor Sonny Bono was NOT included in this poll, but UNDECIDED/others got 41%, compared to 33% for U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell of Palo Alto and 26% for former TV commentator Bruce Herschensohn. In June, Campbell and BH were almost even, with Campbell at 24% and Herschensohn at 22%. Is there a reason for Campbell's surge? Perhaps the heavy travel schedule this past summer and early fall to all parts of Calif. has helped...

...The Demos. With Jerry Brown out of the running for the U.S. Senate, Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy has emerged as a real frontrunner. LMc has 46%, with U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer of Marin at 21% (no movement at all from June), and U.S. Rep. Mel Levine of L.A. still in a single digit at 8%, up 3-pts. from June. UNDECIDED increased from 16% to 25%. But LMc's 20-pt. jump from June to September is impressive, while Boxer has to be disappointed. Levine is still in his STEALTH mode...

...In 1-on-1 matches between Demos & Republicans, McCarthy beats BOTH Campbell and BH by good margins. Boxer is narrowly defeated by Campbell (34% to 32%), but gets by Herschensohn (35% to 31%). Again, very disappointing news for Levine, who is beaten by both Campbell (34% to 24%) and by BH (30% to 29%). On the other hand, neither Campbell nor BH have \$3 million cash-in-the-bank. However, there does come a time when Levine is going to have to come up for air and start campaigning. Stay tuned...

REMAPPING WARS: WILSON TO RELEASE PLAN.

Editor's note: ~~The stalemate over REAPPORTIONMENT~~ continues in Sacramento and the prospects for settlement are not good. Here is an update.

- DON'T GET MAD, GET EVEN - The long overdue reapportionment plan designed by Gov. Pete Wilson's handpicked commission ~~is supposed to be released after this issue of CALPEEK hits the street. We'll analyze it next week -- just to see if Wilson screwed over his opponents...~~

- WILSON vs. DOOLITTLE. The battle between Wilson and U.S. Rep. John Doolittle, who is the point man on reapportionment for the CA GOP House delegation, went ballistic after CALPEEK went to press last week. The governor tried to have Doolittle DUMPED as the reapportionment point man. That didn't work, but U.S. Rep. Carlos Moorhead, who is the senior GOP House member, will now sit across from Wilson at the bargaining table, IF there are any more sessions. Reason for the renewed fighting: Wilson got the White House to bad mouth Doolittle's remapping plan and that POed Doolittle and his allies in the CA GOP House delegation...

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● MASTERS NAMED BY CA SUPREME COURT -

If the gridlock continues in Sacto over reapportionment, a new plan will be drafted by the CA Supreme Court. Actual drafting will be done by 3 retired judges called "masters." They are George A. Brown of Fresno; Rafael H. Galceran of L.A.; and Thomas Kongsgaard of Napa. Brown and Galceran were appointed by Ronald Reagan, while Kongsgaard is a Goodwin Knight appointee. Brown and Galceran are GOPers, while Kongsgaard is a Demo. The masters will draw new district lines for the Congress and Legislature and will submit their plan if the Legislature and Gov. Wilson can't agree to a plan by Nov. 29th. The masters have named U of SF law prof. Paul McKaskle as director & chief counsel. He served as chief counsel to a similar panel in 1973. The masters have set a series of public hearings in Sacto, S.F., L.A. and San Diego from Oct. 24 to Nov. 1. Stay tuned...

SMITH AND REINER: BOTH DAs TO FACE VOTERS.

Editor's note: While 56 other DAs around Calif. run for office on the same schedule as Statewide candidates, the DAs of San Francisco and Los Angeles run on a different schedule. S.F.'s DA, Arlo Smith, faces votes this November, while L.A.'s DA, Ira Reiner, is up next June. Here is a CALPEEK report on these two former rivals...

...Smith is about the luckiest officeholder around. Against all odds, Mr. Charisma upset Reiner to win the Demo nomination for CA Atty. General in June of 1990. But his luck didn't hold in the runoff against GOP AG candidate Dan Lungren. With the loss, and some of the negatives about Smith which aired during the bitter general election, sources thought Smith might be extremely vulnerable, but none of the 3-4 individuals who briefly tested the waters decided to run. So Smith got lucky once again, with NO CHALLENGER this November...

...Reiner would give anything just to have an ounce of luck. But no way. Reiner does NOT face voters until next June, but a poll taken by Fairbank, Bregman & Maullin for probable rival Gil Garcetti (once Reiner's chief deputy) indicates only 19% of those questioned would vote to REELECT Reiner if the election were held now. The same poll also showed that 52% want a new DA. Not good news for Reiner...

...With this level of vulnerability, it is NOT surprising that in addition to Garcetti there are two other very SERIOUS contenders also planning to challenge Reiner in 1992. Deputy DA Sterling Norris, one of the department's top criminal prosecutors, has been talking to a few consultants about running his as yet undeclared effort; and Beverly Hills Councilman Bob Tanenbaum, who served as an asst. DA in New York City before moving West, also has begun assembling a campaign team...

...If these 3 eventually tangle with Reiner, the contest will be more than fun to watch. Garcetti and Norris know where "the bodies are buried" and Tanenbaum is one of the most aggressive candidates you'll ever find on the campaign trail. And you'd better believe that the McMartin Case, as well as other negatives about Reiner will be revisited ad nauseam...

...For now, however, the main focus is on FUNDRAISING. CALPEEK sources say Reiner's deficit from the AG's campaign is almost paid off and he's hired Demo fundraiser John Plaxco. Reiner has a 2 events coming up: Oct. 16 in downtown L.A. and a \$500 per/person dinner at the Bistro Garden in Beverly Hills on Nov. 13. Tanenbaum has a \$300 per/person dinner at Chasen's in West Hollywood on Oct. 16. Irene Tritschler is Tanenbaum's fundraiser...

...Originally, many thought it might take a \$1-million-plus war chest to make it into a runoff with Reiner, but with the recession some experts are revising their estimates downward. Stay tuned...

U.S. REP. TOM CAMPBELL AT BAPAC LUNCHEON.

U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell of Palo Alto will address members of the Bay Area Public Affairs Council (BAPAC) 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon lunch on Oct. 28 at the St. Francis Hotel, S.F. Topic will be Campbell's GOP campaign for the U.S. Senate. For info & RSVPs, contact Alexis Laguillo at (415)442-2151...

